

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, February 2. 1712.

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**W**HILE the Rights of the Church of Scotland are in Debate in the Parliament, and they are making Laws, which whether they entirely break the Union or no, is not for me to say here, but which go so near the Brink of the Union, as makes many Hearts that wish well to their Country, in pain for the Event—While this is doing, who can be silent?

Yet is there no Necessity, that in speaking, a Man should fly in the Face of the Parliament, or dash his Brains out against St. Stephen's hard Walls; there is no more Necessity for a Man to say the Parliament of Britain is going to break the Union, than

there was for the Parson of A—— Yesterday to say in the Pulpit, that Mr. Baxter had reckoned Sir Oliver, Sir Bradshaw, Sir Ireton, &c. among the Sins, and call'd them so, which in short was a Damn'd.... how d'ye call it, unless he can shew it.

But while the Parliament may be doing what they please, and no Man can say unto them, *What doest thou?* A Furious Party without Doors who oppos'd the Union when it was making, and are for destroying it now it is made, shall never make the Attempt, and persuade you here that they are doing Right—I am Reflecting upon no body, when I say, that as single Men

are

are not Infallible ; so neither are Bodies of Men : Even Nations, in all their Capacities, as well Collective as Representative, have been, and are liable to be impos'd upon ; I do not say any are now Impos'd upon, that's none of my Business ; but let me Remark a little the Endeavours of the Party, who from thence endeavour every Day to Impose upon us all, and hope in Time to do it effectually.

The fine Word *Toleration* is the outside, with which they guild over this Hook ; and I must own the Bait takes but too well, even with those, who by Interest are bound to be more Concern'd for the Church of *Scotland* than they are — Why should not the Church of *Scotland* give a Toleration, say our blinded Friends here ; Are not WE ourselves glad to accept of a Toleration here ? — A very good Reason indeed ! — But I'll tell you why you ought not to expect it of them, because they Articled, and Agreed, and Capitulat'd with you against it ; I could repeat here the just Fears they were in of this very Thing, and that it would be the Consequence ; I could repeat to you the Arguments used, when the Act of Security for the Church was pass'd in *Scotland*, before the Union, wherein some urg'd, *alas too Prophetically !* the perfidious Usage they had receiv'd and ought to expect from the Episcopal and *Jacobite* Party there, and how they would make their court to *England* for the Service-Book, tho' they abhor'd it themselves, on purpose to Ruin the Church of *Scotland* — And I could divert you with a very good hint on that Occasion ; how those that hated the Church of *Scotland*, and would have been glad to see her Ruin'd, Voted against the Act, as not a sufficient Security to her ; and those who Valued her Safety, but Trusted to the Generosity of their Neighbours, Unhappy Confidence ! Voted that it was Sufficient — How the first Episcopal, would have had it express'd in particular, That the Common-Prayer Book should never be Licens'd in *Scotland*, hoping that this would

have been an Effectual Obstruction to the passing the Union in the *English* Parliament. The other *Presbyterian* satisfied themselves, without it, thinking the Words of the Act imply'd the same Thing, and believing the *English* Nation so well dispos'd to Liberty and Union, that it was ungenerous, so much as to suspect them of ever being able to offer it.

But before I offer any Comments on these Proceedings, I cannot think but it might be material to give you the Act of Security itself, by which I cannot but hope our Eyes may be open'd, *Amen O God !* to see whether we can Legally do this Thing, yea or no ; not doubting, but if it cannot be done Legally, our Houses of Parliament who are the Conservators of Law and Liberty, will not break in upon either of them, to the Ruin of a Nation, so lately, and with so much difficulty United to us — The Act needs no Comment ; a Firmer, Stronger, Constitution, the Art of Man could not contrive.

Here follows the Tenor of the Act for Securing the Protestant Religion, and Presbyterian Church Government.

“ OUR Sovereign Lady and the Estates of Parliament, considering, That by the late Act of Parliament for a Treaty with *England*, for an Union of both Kingdoms, its provided, that the Commissioners for that Treaty, should not Treat of, or Concerning any Alteration of the Worship, Discipline, and Government of the Church of this Kingdom, as now by Law Establish'd ; which Treaty being now Reported to the Parliament, and it being Reasonable and Necessary, That the true Protestant Religion, as presently profess'd within this Kingdom, with the Worship, Discipline, and Government of this Church, should be effectually and unalterably Secur'd : Therefore her Majesty, with Advice and Consent of the States of Parliament,



" liament, doth hereby Establish and Con-  
 " firm the said True Protestant Religion,  
 " and the Worship, Discipline, and Go-  
 " vernment of this Church, to continue  
 " without Alteration to the People of this  
 " Land, in all succeeding Generations: And  
 " more especially, her Majesty, with Ad-  
 " vice and Consent aforesaid, Ratifies, Ap-  
 " proves, and for ever Confirms the fifth  
 " Act of the first Parliament of King William  
 " and Queen Mary, Entitled, *An Act Ratify-*  
 " *ing the Confession of Faith, and Settling*  
 " *Presbyterian-Church-Government*, with  
 " the Hail other Acts of Parliament rela-  
 " ting thereto, in Prosecution of the De-  
 " claration of the Estates of this Kingdom,  
 " Containing the Claim of Right, bearing  
 " Date the 11th of April, 1690. And her  
 " Majesty with Advice and Consent fore-  
 " said, Expressly Provides and Declares,  
 " that the foresaid True Protestant Reli-  
 " gion, Contain'd in the above-mention'd  
 " Confession of Faith, with the Form and  
 " Purity of Worship, presently in Use with-  
 " in this Church and it's *Presbyterian-Church*  
 " *Government and Discipline*, that is to say,  
 " the Government of the Church by *Kirk*  
 " *Sessions, Presbyteries, Provincial Synods,*  
 " and *General Assemblies*, all Establish'd  
 " by the foresaid Acts of Parliament, pur-  
 " suant to the Claim of Right, shall re-  
 " main and Continue Unalterable: And  
 " that the said *Presbyterian Government*  
 " shall be the only Government of the  
 " Church, within the Kingdom of *Scot-*  
 " *land*; and further, for the greater Se-  
 " curity of the foresaid Protestant Religi-

" on, and of the Worship, Discipline, and  
 " Government of this Church, as above  
 " Establish'd, her Majesty, with Advice  
 " and Consent aforesaid, Statutes and Or-  
 " dains, That the Universities and Col-  
 " ledges of *St. Andrews, Glasgow, Aber-*  
 " *deen, and Edinburgh*, as now Establish'd  
 " by Law, shall continue within this King-  
 " dom for ever: And that in all Times  
 " coming, no Professors, Principals, Re-  
 " gents, Masters, or others bearing Office  
 " in any University, Colledge or School  
 " within this Kingdom, be capable to be  
 " Admitted, or Allowed to continue in  
 " the Exercise of their said Functions, but  
 " such as shall own and acknowledge the  
 " the Civil Government in manner pre-  
 " scrib'd or to be prescribed to the Acts  
 " of Parliament. As also that before or  
 " at their Admissions, they do and shall  
 " Acknowledge and Profess, and shall Sub-  
 " scribe to the foresaid Confession of Faith,  
 " as the Confession of their Faith, and  
 " that they will Practice and Conform  
 " themselves to the Worship presently  
 " in use in this Church, and submit them-  
 " selves to the Government and Discipline  
 " thereof, and never Endeavour Directly  
 " or Indirectly, the Prejudice or Subver-  
 " sion of the same, and that before the Re-  
 " spective Presbyteries of their Bounds,  
 " by whatsoever Gift, Presentation or  
 " Provision they may be thereto provi-  
 " ded.

The Remainder of this Act shall be In-  
 serted in our next.

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